International Treaties

4755. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to have the bilateral and multilateral treaties entered into by the Government ratified by Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Action Plan for Jute Growers

4756. DR. R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a long term action plan for improving the lot of jute growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this plan is likely to be implemented and the total expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). Government of India propose to continue the implementation of existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Special Jute Development Programme(SJDP) in important jute growing States during the VIII Five Year Plan.

Under the existing scheme of SJDP, financial assistance is provided on production and distribution of quality seeds, supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments, distribution of farm implements and also for organising demonstrations of improved production technology. The development programme aims at increasing prouctivity of jute and improving its quality which would enable the jute growers to get better prices for their produce. The scheme may involve and expenditure of about Rs. 46 crore during the entire period of VIII Plan.

[*Translation*]

Gene Bank of Medicinal Plants and Herbs

4757. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a gene bank of medicinal plants and herbs in the developing countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Sir, The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already established a gene bank at New Delhi, to conserve germplasm of various agricultural crops, including medicinal and aromatic plants and herbs. A total of 1,43,897 germplasm collections of various crop plants, including 665 samples of Narcotics and 138 samples of medicinal and aromactic plants, have been presently stored in the gene bank.

[*English*]

Visit of us Team to Kashmir

4758. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high power U.S. team visited Kashmir recently:

(b) if so, the composition of team;

(c) the purpose of the visit;

(d) whether any other such international team or individuals were allowed to visit the Kashmir Valley. If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the U.S. team had expressed any views on Kashmir; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) A team led by Admiral Larson, US Commander-in-Chief Pacific Area Command (CINCPAC) visited Jammu & Kashmir in October 1991.

(b) Other members of the team were Ambassedor M J. Wilkinson. Foreign Policy Advisior to CINCPAC. Rear Admiral I. G. Vogt. Director, Strategi Planning & Policy. Captain J. A. Russack. Executive Assistant. Lt Commander Salkin. Physician. Captain Litchfield. ADC. They were accompanied by Ms. Robin Raphael. Political Counsellor. Colonel Richard Crites. Defence and Army Attache and Mr Dundas McCullough from the US Embassy New Delhi.

(c) The purpose of the visit was to show the visitors the situaion along the Line of Control and tension created by large scale infiltration of trained tarrorists along with arms and ammunition across the Line of Control into India.

(d) Labour Party Leader and shadow Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom. Mr. Gerald Kaufman also visited Jammu and Kashmir in August 1991.

(e) and (f). The team felt that it had gained a better appreciation of the situation on the ground and India's policies and concerns.

Alleged Misappropriation of Money in Lucknow and Kanpur Branches of PNB

4759. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officials of the Punjab National Bank posted at Lucknow and Kanpur have been indicted for alleged misappropriation of public funds and blatant violation of rules in sanctioning loans; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Training to Airmen of Foreign Countries

4760. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian instructors are providing training to the airmen of various foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of such foreign countries; and

(c) the conditions on which such training is provided?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A list of such countries is enclosed. The training courses are offered to friendly foreign countries and the courses are conducted under the following schemes:

(i) Indian Technical and Economic